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Allen Dulles' Leadership Big Factor

CIA Is Going Concern Now

By PETER EDSON

Central Intelligence Agency is 10 years old this fall. The past year has been the busiest of its short career, due to the crises in Poland, Hungary and the Middle East.

Some harsh things have been said about CIA in this period. There have been Congressional criticisms on estimates of Soviet bomber strength. President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and their top aides have been reported without advance reports on British, French and Israeli intentions to attack Egypt.

CIA Director Allen W. Dulles is in the position of not being able to answer attacks on intelligence failures. But the observation can be made that even when intelligence estimates are available, the information in them may not be passed on or impressed on officials most vitally concerned.

This has been the great failing of U. S. intelligence work all along. Accurate intelligence estimates were made before the Japs struck Pearl Harbor. The information just wasn't properly evaluated and passed on to the right people.

Similarly, U. S. intelligence fell down when the Chinese Communists struck south across the Yalu river in 1950. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who took over as fourth head of CIA in October of that year, ordered a complete overhaul of the agency.

He was tough and ruthless about it. He cleaned out many of the extra hands hired in a hurry at the start of the war. The rich boys and girls who played at intelligence — the Georgetown cocktail set — were let go. Tighter security was imposed.

Then Gen. Smith asked Allen Dulles, who had headed a three-man commission to study reorganization of CIA, to come in for a few weeks and put his recommendations into effect.

Mr. Dulles has been at CIA ever since. He became Gen. Smith's deputy, then his successor in 1953.

In the past four years, CIA has changed quite a lot. Its budget, the number of its employes and their operations still remain secret. But it has built up a career service of intelligence experts — something the U. S. has never had before. Today CIA has literally hundreds of intelligence officers to cover the vast Soviet effort in the cold war.

College graduating classes are now systematically combed each June for honor students in languages, economics and science. But of every 1000 applicants for career jobs, only 90 pass the severe tests and training requirements.

The pay is $3000 for beginners up to $14,000 for 25 top analysts. Director Dulles gets $21,000. It isn't the pay that holds the "best educated working force here in Washington" together, but the interest in the work. Mr. Dulles sets the pace by practically living his job, seven days and [illegible]

He has worked out a good relationship with Congress. The drive for a Congressional watchdog committee for CIA was killed last year. Mr. Dulles now draws his budget with the seven senior members of Congressional appropriations committees. On top secret items, the Congressmen say, "Don't tell us."

CIA after a struggle got $46,000,000 for its new headquarters in Langley, Va. This will replace the 26 buildings CIA now occupies—11 of them World War One and Two temporaries.

The new building won't be completed till 1960. But with a million square feet of floor space, it will have room for 10,000 employes, whether it has that many or not. The explanation is that it needs lots of space for libraries and conference rooms. On its 100 acre grounds there will be parking space for every employe, which will be another way to count 'em.

So, gradually, CIA is becoming an established service. Its members now say that it is better than British Intelligence, which used to be considered tops. CIA is also said to be as good as the Russians.

In support of that statement, it is pointed out that the Russians were caught completely by surprise when the Polish and Hungarian revolts broke out. U. S. officials had been advised that the situations in both countries were explosive. But there was a wrong estimate that Hungary would blow up [illegible]

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